

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2582

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY SANAA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

S E C R E T ABU DHABI 0352

LIMDIS

BEIRUT PASS BAGHDAD

LONDON FOR LAMBRAKIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORS, PINS, MASS, TC

SUBJ: ADVISORY ROLE OF U.K. AND CERTAIN OTHER COUNTRIES IN DEFENSE/
SECURITY FIELD IN PERSIAN GULF STATES

REF: (A) STATE 29563 (B) STATE A-74, JANUARY 6, 1975

1. EMBASSY COMMENTS IN RESPONSE TO REFS WILL INDEED BE
FRAGMENTARY AND WILL IN PARTICULAR LACK MUCH SPECIFIC DATA

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AS TO NUMBERS AND PRECISE LOCATION OF EXPATRIATE ADVISORS

IN UAEG DEFENSE/SECURITY ESTABLISHMENTS. HOPEFULLY WE
WILL HAVE MORE DETAILS BY APRIL 15.

2. CONSIDERATION OF ROLE EXPATRIATE ADVISORS IN UAE DEFENSE/
SECURITY ESTABLISHMENTS MUST START WITH REMINDER THAT THIS COUNTRY
HAS MULTITUDE OF SUCH ESTABLISHMENTS ON FEDERAL AND EMIRATE
LEVEL AND THAT BOTH ROLES OF, POLICIES TOWARD FOREIGN
ADVISORS VARY. BUT TWO POINTS CAN BE MADE WHICH APPLY IN
ALL CASES. (A) EXPATRIATES PLAY A VITAL ROLE. NUMBER OF LOCAL
OFFICERS IN ANYTHING EXCEPT FIGUREHEAD POSITIONS IS STILL EXTREMELY
SMALL. THERE IS, OF COURSE, SUBSTANTIAL EFFORT UNDERWAY
IN TRAINING, BUT IT WILL BE SOME TIME BEFORE THIS WILL TAKE
EFFECT IN SENSE OF UAE CITIZENS HAVING IN-DEPTH CONTROL OF THEIR
OWN FORCES AND POLICE. (B) WHILE BRITISH ROLE IS STILL PREDOMINANT,
IT HAS ALREADY BEEN ERODED BY STRONG TREND TOWARD MOSLIM
(E.G. PAKISTANI) ADVISORS. THIS EROSION WILL CONTINUE AND MAY
BEFORE LONG INCLUDE THE PAKISTANIS THEMSELVES AS POLICY TREND
APPEARS TO BE SHARPENING TOWARDS ONE OF "ARABIZING" LOCAL FORCES.

3. WITH REFERENCE TO INDIVIDUAL FORCES: (A) ABU DHABI DEFENSE
FORCE (ADDF) - AS LARGEST MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT IN COUNTRY IT
NATURALLY FOLLOWS THAT IT HAS LARGEST NUMBER OF EXPATRIATE
ADVISORS. AND IT IS ALSO HERE THAT TREND AWAY FROM BRITS FIRST
TOWARDS MOSLIMS AND PERHAPS NOW INCREASINGLY TOWARD ARABS
IS STRONGEST. BRITISH SECONDED OFFICERS ARE NOW DOWN TO
FOUR IN NUMBER; ALL WITH LAND FORCES. PAKISTANIS GENERALLY CONTROL
AIR WING, INCLUDING ITS COMMANDER AND ALMOST ALL OF MIRAGE
PILOTS. AND IN SEA WING, BRITISH CONTRACT OFFICER IS ON HIS WAY
OUT, TO BE REPLACED BY EGYPTIAN OR SUDANESE. IN NUMBER OTHER
CASES, WHILE BRITISH CONTRACT OFFICERS HAVE BEEN OFFERED
RENEWALS, OVERALL CONDITIONS AND PRESSURES ARE LEADING NUMBER
OF THEM TO LOOK ELSEWHERE. AS FOR TURN TOWARD ARABS, AS
DISTINCT FROM MOSLIM PAKISTANIS, THIS IS INFLUENCED, AT LEAST TO
A DEGREE, BY QUESTION OF AVAILABILITY. ADDF FOR EXAMPLE WAS
STILL LOOKING FOR PAKISTANIS TO ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR SERVICING
TWO NEW C-130'S DUE ARRIVE IN APRIL 1975 AND ONLY TURNED TO
LOCKHEED WHEN PAKS FAILED TO PRODUCE. ON OTHER HAND, WE HEAR
THERE IS INCREASING UNHAPPINESS WITH PAKISTAN PERFORMANCE ON
MIRAGES AND THAT EFFORTS ARE UNDERWAY TO BRING EGYPTIANS OR
MORROCCANS AS REPLACEMENTS. THIS COULD, OF COURSE, BE QUESTION
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OF SEEKING GREATER EFFICIENCY, NOT JUST ONE OF NATIONALITY.
IN CASE OF NEW COMMANDER OF SEA WING, HOWEVER, WE HAVE HEARD
ONE REPORT THAT EGYPTIAN OR SUDANESE WILL BE ARMY OFFICER WITH
NO EXPERIENCE AT SEA. IF TRUE, THIS APPEARS BE CLEAR CASE OF
PUTTING NATIONALITY AHEAD ALL OTHER QUALIFICATIONS. IN SHORT, WHILE
"ARABIZATION" CANNOT PERHAPS YET BE LABELED AS OVERRIDING POLICY,
TREND IS THERE.

(B) UNION DEFENSE FORCE (UDF) AND DUBAI DEFENSE FORCE (DDF) - THESE ARE TWO OTHER MAJOR MILITARY FORCES IN COUNTRY. BEING MUCH SMALLER, EXPATRIATE PRESENCE, WHILE JUST AS VITAL, IS RELATIVELY FEW IN NUMBER. AND PERHAPS THIS IN TURN EXPLAINS WHY PRESSURE TO REPLACE BRITS HAS BEEN LESS. IN UDF, HOWEVER, WHICH HAS ROUGHLY TEN SECONDED AND TEN CONTRACT BRITISH OFFICER, COMMANDER -- BRITISH OFFICER WHOSE EXPERIENCE IN AREA GOES BACK NUMBER OF YEARS TO DAYS TRUCIAL OMAN SCOUTS -- WAS RECENTLY DISMISSED ON TWO-DAY NOTICE. THERE ARE VARIETY OF STORIES AS TO REASONS FOR THIS ACTION, AND HE MAY BE REPLACED BY ANOTHER BRITISH OFFICER. BUT CERTAINLY POSITION IS MORE TENUOUS THAN IN PAST. IN DDF, BRITS HAVE ABOUT SIX AND SIX, SECONDED AND CONTRACT, AND THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT THEY STILL RUN THE SHOW. AS FINAL POINT, BRITISH MILITARY ADVISORY TEAM WITH UDF IS REPORTEDLY TO BE WITHDRAWN LATER THIS YEAR. THIS DECISION, IF CARRIED OUT, HOWEVER, WILL BE ONE MADE BY BRITISH GOVERNMENT PRIMARILY FOR REASONS OF ECONOMY RATHER THAN ANY REFLECTION OF TREND AWAY FROM BRITISH ADVISORS ON PART LOCAL AUTHORITIES.

(C) POLICE FORCES - HERE "ARABIZATION" IS VIRTUALLY COMPLETE. ONLY IN NORTHERN EMIRATES DOES SOME BRITISH INFLUENCE REMAIN AND EVEN IN DUBAI THERE ARE REPORTS THAT LONG TIME BRITISH INCUMBENT IN CHARGE OF POLICY MAY BE ON WAY OUT. IN ABU DHABI SUDANESE AND JORDANIANS HAVE FILLED GAPS AND ARE IN CONTROLLING POSITION. INTERESTINGLY, HOWEVER, IN CASE INTELLIGENCE DIVISION, SWING HAS GONE ALL THE WAY WITH UAE CITIZENS HOLDING ALL POSITIONS -- WITH RESULT BEING SHARPLY DECREASED EFFICIENCY.

4. AS FOR FUTURE, ALL THAT CAN BE SAID WITH DEGREE OF CERTAINLY IS THAT BRITISH INFLUENCE -- MOST IMMEDIATELY IN

ABU DHABI EMIRATE BUT WITH OTHERS LIKELY TO FOLLOW --
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IS ON DECLINE WITH ALMOST NO CHANCE THAT IT WILL BE REVERSED AS FOR WHAT THIS WILL MEAN IN TERMS OF UAE'S SECURITY, THIS REMAINS TO BE SEEN. IT IS HARDLY LIKELY TO INCREASE EFFICIENCY, BUT IN ABSENCE OF EXTERNAL THREATS THIS PERHAPS MAKES LITTLE DIFFERENCE -- AND WE ARE NOT SO SURE HOW EFFICIENT FORCES (OTHER THAN PERHAPS UDF) WERE EVEN WHEN BRITISH INFLUENCE STRONGER. AGAIN, WITH REGARD INTERNAL SECURITY, THREATS ARE NOT SUCH THAT DECREASED EFFICIENCY POSES IMMEDIATE PROBLEM. OVER TIME, HOWEVER, ON POINT TO WATCH IS WITH WHOM INDIVIDUAL TROOP UNITS WILL PLACE THEIR LOYALTIES -- AND POLITICAL MOTIVATIONS OF SUCH INDIVIDUALS. WHETHER NEW OFFICERS WILL BE AS APOLITICAL AS BRITISH PREDECESSORS ONLY TIME WILL TELL.
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